

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-18 are pending. Claim 1 is amended without prejudice. No new matter is added.

Applicants expressly state that the claims, as amended, are intended to include and encompass the full scope of any equivalents as if the claims had been originally filed and not amended. Thus, Applicants hereby expressly rebut any presumption that Applicants have narrowed or surrendered any equivalents under the doctrine of equivalents by amending the claims, or by presenting any remarks in this paper, and in no way do Applicants disclaim any of the territory between the original claims and the amended claims with respect to any equivalent subject matter.

As this paper is submitted within the three-month term for reply set by the December 1, 2005 Final Office Action, no fee is believed due. If, however, a fee is necessary for consideration of this paper, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 8, 11, 12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Breu et al. (WO '488). Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's reasoning, the amendment to claim 1 renders the rejection moot.

Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues with respect to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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